

REMARKS

The above-captioned patent application was filed with 19 claims. Claims 5, 6, 9 through 13 and 19 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to 37 CFR §1.142(b). Currently, claim 1 is in independent form. Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled.

Claims 14 through 18 have been objected to under 37 CFR §1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiply dependent claim cannot depend from another multiply dependent claim. claims 14 through 18 have been amended such that claims 14 through 17 all depend from claim 1 and claim 18 depends from claim 17. Thus, the multiply dependent claims have been removed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully traverses this objection.

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, the language regarding the fabrication of the intermediate piece as being from either a first dielectric material or a second dielectric material is confusing. In addition, portions of claim 8 are considered redundant recitations of portions of claim 7.

Applicant has amended claim 8 to remove the indefiniteness cited by the Examiner. More specifically, claim 8 has been amended to remove language relating to the alternative materials of either the first dielectric material or the second dielectric material as was previously claimed. In addition, the redundant recitations in claim 8 that were also found in claim 7 have been removed from claim 8. Therefore, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits that claim 8, as amended to clarify the invention, and all claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by United States Patent 4,661,790 (the Gannon et al. '790 reference). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 4 and claim 3, an intervening claim, into claim 1. As stated by the Examiner, this combination of elements would be allowable (office action dated March 21, 2003, page four, paragraph nine).

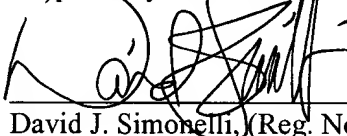
Therefore, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and asserts claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 7 has been objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim. claim 7 has been modified to remove the language that has been incorporated into the newly amended claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is also in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee associated with this Communication to Deposit Account No. 50-1759. A duplicate of this form is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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